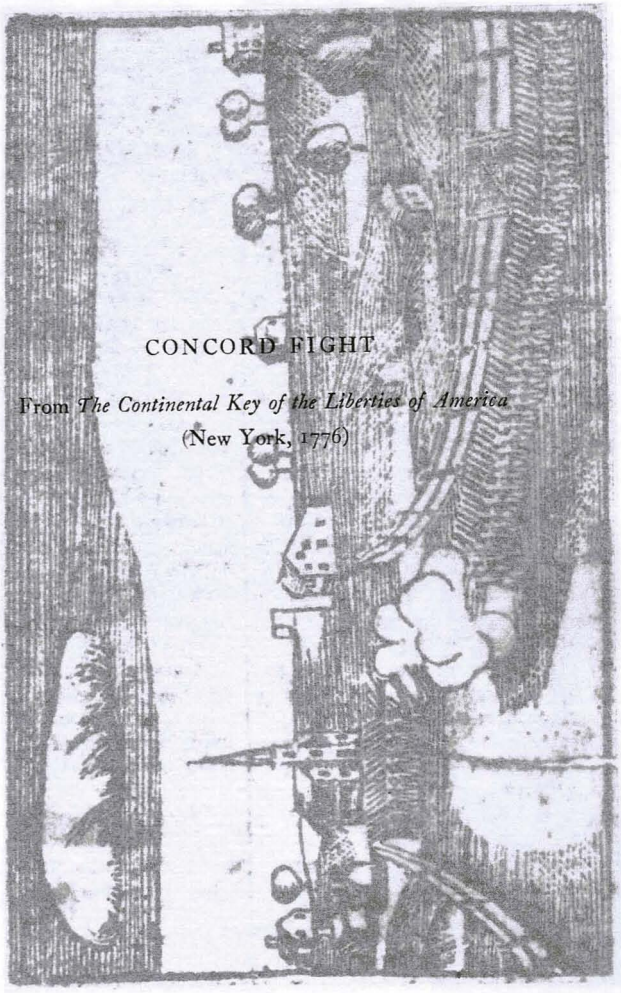
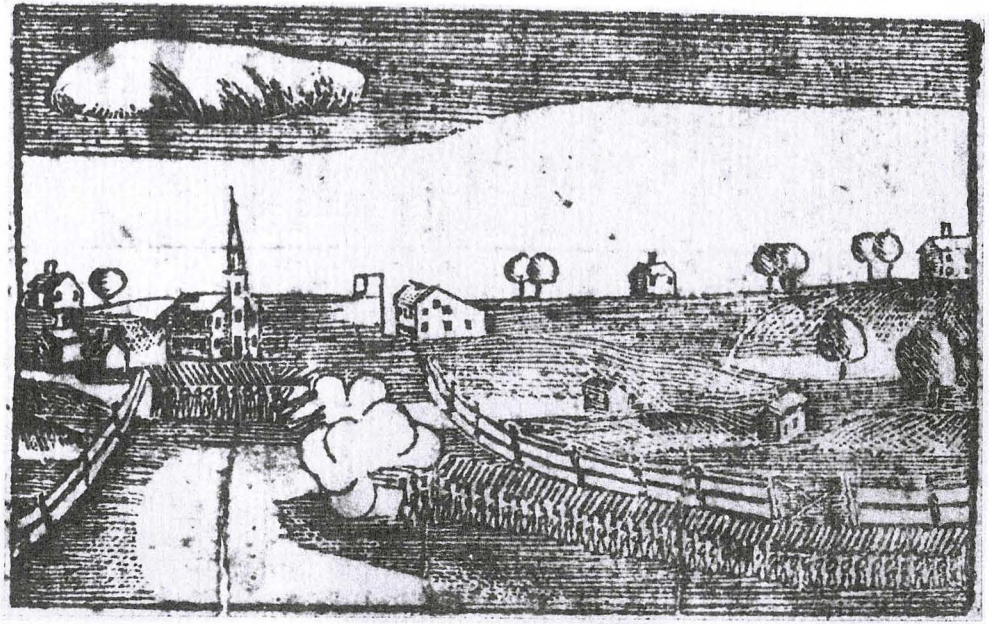
LATE NEWS
&c.



CONCORD FIGHT

From *The Continental Key of the Liberties of America*
(New York, 1776)



LATE NEWS

OF THE

EXCURSION and RAVAGES

OF THE

KING'S TROOPS

On the nineteenth of APRIL, 1775

AS SET FORTH IN THE

NARRATIVES

Of Lieut. WILLIAM SUTHERLAND of His Majesty's
38th Regiment of Foot and of RICHARD POPE
of the 47th Regiment

MASSACHUSETTS-BAY
CAMBRIDGE: Printed by the PRESS at HARVARD COLLEGE
for the CLUB OF ODD VOLUMES
1927

PREFACE

THE account of Lieutenant Sutherland's experiences on the 19th of April, 1775, is of peculiar interest, since he is one of the officers upon whose evidence Colonel Smith based his report to Gage. The existence of the lieutenant's narrative was unknown until it was acquired by Mr. W. L. Clements, the generous friend of the University of Michigan, through his recent purchase of the superb collection of British headquarters papers so carefully preserved by General Sir Henry Clinton and his descendants.

William Sutherland's commission as lieutenant in the army dated from 1761; he had been of the 38th Regiment since 1766, and so was no novice in his profession. He was promoted to a captaincy in the 55th Regiment in the spring of 1776, and four years later we find him still of that rank and regiment. He is mentioned twice in Howe's Orderly Book, one entry referring to his promotion. His wife was with him in Boston, and on one occasion he was recalled to the memory of General Haldimand as "pretty Mrs. Suth-

erland's husband." A good husband, we may hope, but certainly an energetic officer of an adventurous spirit and doubtless well trained in those rigid military formulas which were to prove so inadequate in the early years of the American Revolution.

His narrative is written in a clear hand not his own, on four folio pages, and to it he has affixed his signature. It is dated April 26th, or just one week after the battle. It is not a letter but rather a minute or memorandum. It may have been prepared by official command, but it seems too informal for a document so inspired. It cannot have been intended for Smith, who made his report to Gage on April 22nd. It may have been prepared at the suggestion of his colonel, for whom it might concern, but any theory of this sort amounts to little more than idle conjecture.

At all events, here is the story of the 19th of April, recorded within a few days of the events it describes, by an active participant in the fighting. Sutherland accompanied the detachment as a volunteer and evidently without permission. At half-past eight on the 18th of April, he knew nothing of Gage's plans; an hour later he was following certain soldiers to the Magazine Guard where he went aboard the boats. Perhaps he was off duty, but to the layman his course seems singularly casual and unmilitary. If he was to play truant

it is to be hoped that he sent some word to his colonel and to his spouse, to prevent uneasiness or questioning on the anxious day that followed. Not only does he seem to have been well received by both Smith and Pitcairn, but he was assigned by them to scouting duty in advance of the detachment. His companion in this service was probably a man after his own heart, as no one can deny that Adair of the Marines was a bold and forceful officer. He proved this conclusively when he came unbidden on to the field of Bunker Hill where we are officially informed he was not only "the first who got upon the Redoubt" but "shew'd the Example to others to follow him." The early morning task of these young Hotspurs seems to have been vigilantly and effectively performed, and we follow their activities with interest, as the infantryman mounts his captured horse, and the marine, "soldier an' sailor too," clambers aboard his wheeled prize, whose home port was somewhere in Middlesex County.

Although in no sense illiterate, Sutherland is not always a clear chronicler. His topographical references are often hard to follow, as witness his brief and confused account of the return march to Lexington. He consistently and not unnaturally exaggerates the strength of his adversaries; "vast numbers" is a favorite phrase with him. Unlike Barker ("The British

in Boston," Cambridge, 1924), or Mackenzie ("A British Fusilier in Revolutionary Boston," Cambridge, 1926), he has no comment to make on the general military activities of the day, but confines himself to what he did, saw, and heard. I find no trace of any desire to glorify himself.

Sutherland not only throws light on some controverted questions, but records incidents hitherto unknown. The notes will serve to call attention to such cases. The happenings of the night march to Lexington are given in greater detail than in Barker's account, but there is no conflict between the two. Certain of the Americans captured by the troops I have tried to identify from American sources, and we are introduced as well to several British officers whose names do not appear in any other narrative. Sutherland's vexation at Concord on learning that Parsons had gone on to Colonel Barrett's without him is characteristic both of his eagerness and of his independent status.

The most important section of Sutherland's story has to do with the tragedy on Lexington Common and calls for special comment. In the first place, there is that flash in the pan ("burnt priming") just before the Common is reached. Adair, as well as Sutherland, was a witness of the incident. It was promptly reported to Pitcairn, and that he passed the information on to his

commanding officer is evidenced by Smith's mention of it in his report to Gage. Then Sutherland reports shots from a house that from his description can be no other than the Buckman Tavern. As if aware of the lack of supporting witnesses, he affirms the fact with some solemnity, indeed "as he hopes for mercy." Apparently the tavern was disregarded for the moment, and the troops passed on to the Common to find Parker's men drawn up in arms. As Sutherland saw it, the prologue to the bloodshed was less formal than we have been led to believe. Not Pitcairn, but "several officers" called out to the militia to lay down their arms. The order not being obeyed, Sutherland, with seven or eight other mounted officers, rode in "among'st them," a sufficient indication that they were then dispersing. Pitcairn's voice is then heard above the pounding of hoofs, apparently for the first time, commanding the men to keep their ranks, to surround the militia, and not to fire. Shots follow from a few Provincials behind a wall, and in an instant the British fire flashes out in return.

At this crisis, much to the detriment of history, Sutherland's horse suddenly assumes an active part in the affair. Unquestionably "gun shy," he was doubtless of the patriot faith, and the property of one of the morning's captives. With the bit between his teeth, he

whirls our witness away from his point of vantage, and carries him in approved Gilpinesque fashion, probably up the road by Parson Clark's, among fleeing minute men and spectators. He is finally turned, and while he is galloping back to the Common certain long-range shots are fired at his rider, evidently from the woods between the road and the Buckman Tavern. Sutherland reappears on the Common in season to give us some new information. He finds Colonel Smith there with the Grenadiers, showing that the main body followed the vanguard more closely than has been supposed. This is accounted for by Pitcairn's frequent halts to obtain information as to the situation ahead. Not only had the Grenadiers arrived on the ground, but we learn that they fired smartly into the woods from which Sutherland had been attacked. It is doubtful if our witness saw this, it having occurred probably just before he regained the Common. At Smith's request Sutherland finds a drummer, who "beats to arms." The British fire ceases, but not until another shot has been fired from an upper window of the Tavern.

Such in effect is Sutherland's version of the "battle" at Lexington. It is the most circumstantial account from the British side of what happened there. Here is more testimony as to Pitcairn's sensible and humane intentions and behaviour. Here also is definite confir-

mation of what heretofore has been a theory, namely, that the British aggression on the Common was due to the refusal of the militia to give up their arms. Sutherland's statement that the Provincials fired the first shot cannot be lightly dismissed. It is the assertion of an eye witness that must be regarded as important, although of course not conclusive. His argument that the troops could not have fired "immediately" because of the activities of the mounted officers in their front, is convincing. He may have been mistaken as to the shots fired from the tavern, but it is interesting to note that what he says confirms in some measure the Lexington tradition of the activities of Solomon Brown upon those premises, activities that it is alleged resulted in his ejection from the house by a landlord who for obvious reasons was determined to remain neutral "even in thought." Future chroniclers of the Lexington tragedy must certainly allow for an earlier entrance of Smith upon the stage. The wildness of the soldiery both at Lexington and at Concord Bridge, and the confusion that resulted, is nowhere more clearly indicated than in the present narrative.

The extract from "Richard Pope's Book" is appended, as it forms an interesting corollary to what Sutherland has to say. It was called to my attention a year or more ago by Mr. Allen French. The original

manuscript is in the Huntington Library in California and a photostatic copy is lodged with the New York Public Library.

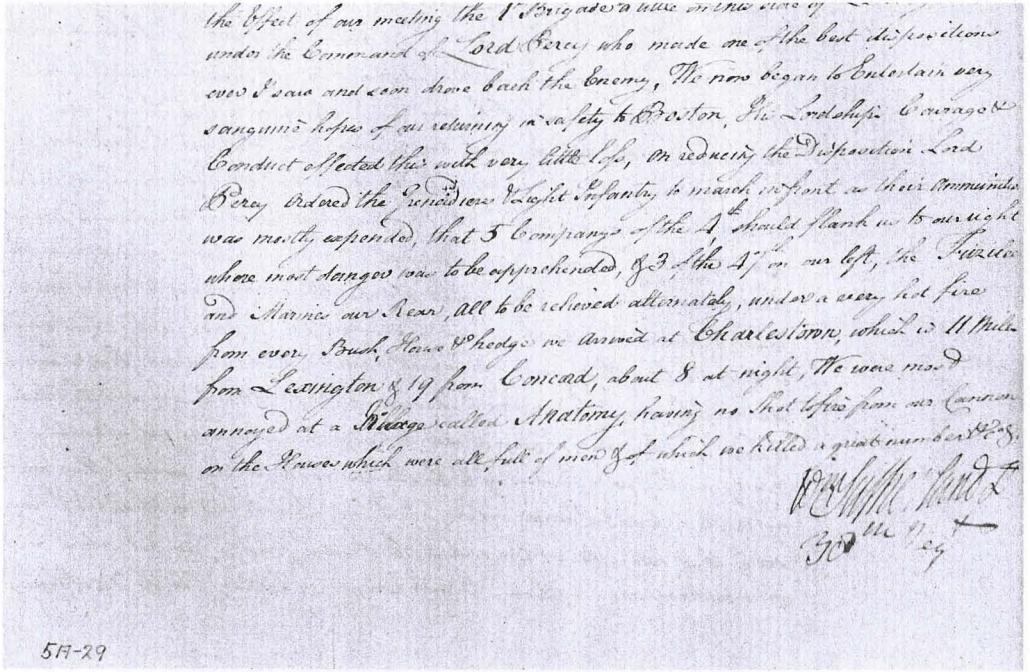
As historical authority it ranks far below the Sutherland document. We do not even know who Richard Pope was.[1] His name does not appear in the British Army Lists of the period, and it is probable that he was a private or non-commissioned officer in the 47th Regiment. His "Book," although evidently written very late in the eighteenth century, may have been based in part on memoranda made in America. Although he did not go out with Smith, and got only as far as Lexington with Percy's Brigade, the larger part of his chronicle is given over to the events on Lexington Common and at Concord. In other words, while Sutherland reports what he saw, Pope gives much space to what he heard. He mentions the "charge" of the mounted officers and even alludes to the misbehaviour of Sutherland's horse! Is it likely that Pope, a private of the 47th, talked with Sutherland, a subaltern of the 38th, or had access to his written narrative? If not, his "Book" may be cited as confirming from other sources certain of Sutherland's statements.

[1] Pope's address is given on his manuscript as Sion Hill. This may refer to the geographical locality, but the Duke of Marlborough's seat near Brentford was known as Sion Hill. After the war Pope may have entered the service of that nobleman.

The thanks of the Club are due to our associates Mr. Clements and Mr. Huntington, for their courtesy and generosity in allowing us to reproduce these valuable and hitherto unpublished documents.

HAROLD MURDOCK

Sutherland's Narrative



CONCLUSION OF SUTHERLAND'S MANUSCRIPT

Size of original page 9 by 14½ inches

Boston, April 26th 1775.

ON the Evening of the 18th about 9 OClock I learned there was a large Detachment going from this Garrison on which I immediatly resolved to go with them & meeting a few men in the Street full Accoutred I followed them & embarked at the Magazine Guard & landed near Cambridge where I joined Major Pitcairn who I understood was to Command next to Colonel Smith, here we remained for two long hours partly waiting for the rest of the Detachment & for provisions, about 2 in the Morning [1] on the 19th we marched Major Pitcairn Commanding the front the Light Infantry, the Tide being in we were up to our Middles before we got into the road continued for 4 Mile without meeting with any person when I heared

[1] This statement confirms Barker's estimate (*The British in Boston*, Cambridge, 1924) as to the hour that the troops started on their march. It is confirmed also in "Richard Pope's Book." In an anonymous letter copied by Lieut. Frederick Mackenzie in his diary (Cambridge, 1926) we find the following — "It was 2 oClock before they marched off. . . . In order to make up for the time they had lost, the Command officer marched at a great rate, till they reached Lexington, etc." While I have been slow to accept 2 o'clock as the hour of starting, the accumulated evidence seems to establish the fact beyond reasonable doubt. This compels the conclusion that, despite the numerous halts, the troops covered the eleven miles to Lexington in three hours and a half at most.

Lieu^{t} Adair of the Marines who was a little before me in front Call out, here are 2 fellows [1] galloping express to Alarm the Country, on which I immediately rode up to them, Seized one of them & our guide the other, dismounted them & by Major Pitcairns directions gave them in charge to the men, A little after we were joined by Lieu^{t} Grant of the Royal Artillery who told us the Country, he was afraid was alarmed, of which we had little reason to doubt as we heared several shot being then between 3 & 4 in the morning (a very unusual time for firing) when we were joined by Major Mitchell, Cap^{t} Cochrane, Cap^{t} Lumm & several other Gentlemen [2] who told us the whole Country was Alarm'd & had Gallopped for their lives, or words to that purpose, that they had taken Paul Revierre but was obliged to lett him go after having cutt his girths & Stirrups.[3] A little after a fellow came out of a Cross road galloping, Mr. Adair and I called to him to stop, but he galloped off as hard as he could, upon which Mr. Simms — Surgeons Mate of 43^{d} Reg^{t} who was on

[1] Perhaps Asahel Porter and Josiah Richardson who had been sent out from Lexington as scouts.

[2] Edward Mitchell of the 5th, Chas. Cochrane of the 4th, and Charles Lumm of the 38th Regiment, as well as William Grant, mentioned in the same paragraph, were of the party who were sent out by Gage on the evening of the 18th to patrol the Concord Road.

[3] This is in agreement with Paul Revere's own story as he told it late in life.

horseback pursued him & took him a great way in front, A little after I mett a very genteel man riding in a Carriage they call a Sulky who assured me there were 600 men assembled at Lexington with a view of opposing us, I think I should know this man again if I saw him as I took very particular notice of his features & dress. I waited with him till Major Pitcairn came up with the Division to whom he repeated much the same as he did to me, then going on in front again I mett coming out of a cross road another fellow gallopping, however hearing him sometime before I placed myself so that I got hold of the Bridle of his horse and dismounted him,[1] Our guide seemed to think that this was a very material fellow and said something as if he had been a member of the Provincial Congress, A little after this I mounted a horse I had & Mr. Adair went into a Chaise, it began now to be day light, and we mett some men with a waggon of Wood who told us they were odds of 1000 men in Arms at Lexington and added that they would fight us, Here we waited for sometime, but seeing nothing of the divisions, I rode to the left about half a Mile to see if I could fall in with them, but could see nothing of them, however saw a vast number of the Country Militia going over the Hill with their Arms to Lexington & mett one of them in

[1] Perhaps Simon Winship.

the teeth whom I obliged to give up his firelock & Bayonet, which I believe he would not have done so easily but from Mr Adairs coming up,[1] On this we turned back the road we came and found the Division who had halted in consequence of the Intelligence the man in the Sulky gave them in order to make a Disposition, by advancing men in front and on the flanks to prevent a Surprize, I went on with the front party which Consisted of a Serjeant & 6 or 8 men, I shall Observe here that the road before you go into Lexington is level for about 1000 Yards, Here we saw Shots fired to the right and left of us, but as we heared no Whissing of Balls I conclude they were to Alarm the body that was there of our approach. On coming within Gunshot of the village of Lexington a fellow from the corner of the road on the right hand Cock'd his piece at me, burnt priming, I immediately called to Mr. Adair & the party to observe this Circumstance which they did & acquainted Major Pitcairn of it immediately,[2] we still went on further when a few shot more were fired at us from the Corner of a house [3] to the right of the Church

[1] This was doubtless Benjamin Wellington, the first prisoner taken in arms by the British. He was disarmed and set free, the treatment Pitcairn would have accorded the Lexington belligerents had his plans worked out.

[2] This episode was evidently reported by Pitcairn to Smith, who repeats it in his report to Gage. It is mentioned in Gage's account of the action.

[3] Evidently the Buckman Tavern.

which is sacred truth as I hope for mercy. When we came up to the Main body who were drawn up in the plain opposite to the Church when several Officers called out, throw down your Arms & you shall come by no harm, or words to that effect which they refusing to do, instantaneously the Gentlemen who were on horseback rode in amongst them [1] at which time I heared Major Pitcairns voice call out Soldiers dont fire keep your ranks and form & surround them, instantly some of the Villains were got over the hedge, fired at us, & it was then & not before that the Soldiers fired which sett my horse agoing who gallopped with me 600 yards or more down a road to the right amongst the middle of them, at last I turned him and in returning a vast number who were in a wood at the right of the Grenadiers fired at me, but the distance was so great that I only heared the Whissing of the Balls, but saw a great number of people in this Wood, in consequence of their discovering them being there our Grenadiers who were then on their flank and close to them gave them a very

[1] At this point there appears on the margin of the sheet, written in the same hand as the narrative, Sutherland's interpolation as follows: "I shall Observe here that it is very unlikely our men should have fired on them immediately as they must certainly have hurt Major Mitchell, Capts. Lumm, Cochrane, Lieuts. Baker, Thorne, & me & some other Gentlemen who were on horseback who rode in amongst them, Desiring them to throw down their Arms & no harm should be done them." The officers mentioned here for the first time are probably Peregrine Francis Thorne of the 4th and Thomas Baker of the 5th Regiment.

smart fire, On my coming up Colonel Smith turned to me, asked me, do you know where a Drummer is which I found, whom the Colonel immediately ordered to beat to Arms, on which there was a few shot fired I suppose at Colonel Smith from the Gavel window of a house about 50 yards from us, and it was from the end of that house the first shot was fired at us, the firing immediately ceased on our side, Colonel Smith ordered that the men should replenish the upper part of their Cartridge Boxes with Ammunition. We marched quietly from this to Concord only seeing some horsemen on the heights, I suppose with no other view than to know our number & to make the Cowardly disposition which they did afterwards, to murder us all on our return. On our approaching Concord we saw upon the heights what appeared to me to amount to 12 or 1500 people, on which we halted a little on this side of the first Bridge[1] to make a Disposition to go up the Hill when we saw this body which we did by Extending our right flank to the very Edge of the hill on one side & our left to the Village of Concord, still as we marched on they retreated & we saw several people in the Marsh to the right running into Woods, but the Main body of them kept still together till they retreated over the

[1] At Meriam's Corner. For American accounts of this episode see narratives of Thaddeus Blood and Amos Barrett.

Bridge beyond Concord, then they went up the road in the face of the Hill & went on a little way & then turned out of that road, to another road on the right, & part of them formed in a Meadow and the rest went still further off with the Women & Children and formed in another Meadow on a rising ground, I saw more men in Arms on a height that rose above the last mentioned party, on our crossing over the bridge after them Capt Parsons Ordered Capt Lawrie with 2 Companys to stay at the Bridge and he went up to the top of the Hill with the Companys of 4th, 10th & 38th where we halted a little & saw all this Disposition,[1] This height is not much above 300 yards from the Bridge I directed a Serjeant of our Regiment [2] to go to a piece of rock that was still higher to see the Country which he did & staid with the 10th Company myself, in a little I learned Capt Parsons,[3] Capt Brown [4] & Capt Boyd [5] had gone further on, I was exceedingly vexed at this & begg'd of Lieut Kelly of the 10th to give me 2 men to go after them which he did and going along I observed a Company of the 4th Regt upon the Hill, I had sent the

[1] For the positions of the three companies mentioned, in the vicinity of the bridge, see the reproduction of a contemporaneous map in the Mackenzie Diary.

[2] The 38th foot.

[3] Lawrence Parsons of the 10th Regiment.

[4] Wm. Browne of the 52d Regiment.

[5] St. Lawrence Boyd of the 38th Regiment.

Serjeant [to] sometime before, I still pursued the low road close by the river, when one of them called out to me Sir the Company of the 4th. are retiring, I was surprised at that, on which I looked to my right and saw a large body of men marching almost within Pistol shot of me, it struck me it would be disgracefull to be taken by such Rascals and I made the best of my way for the Bridge never out of reach of Musquet shot of this party where I joined Capt. Laurie, This formidable force drew up on the heights within 3 or 400 yards of us, Capt. Laurie was kind enough to ask me, was it not better to Acquaint Col. Smith of this I told him by all means, as their disposition appeared to be very regular and determined. On which he sent Lieut. Robinson [1] to Col Smith who returned in a very little time with Capt. Lumm who told us Col Smith would send us a reinforcement immediately, Capt. Lumm very obligingly gallopped as hard as he could to hasten the Reinforcement, on their beginning to march down on us by divisions from their left in a very military manner as they had every advantage of the ground all the Officers mentioned to Capt. Laurie that it would be better to go over the Bridge, raise a few planks, which we did I being the last that came over myself & raised the first plank, Capt. Laurie desired the men to form a line to the right

[1] Probably Alexander Robertson of the 43rd Regiment.

and left of the bridge [1] and the Soldiers to keep up their fire,[2] I jump'd over the hedge into a Meadow just opposite to the Enemy as they were advancing to the Bridge and beg'd they would follow me agreeable to Cap[t] Laurie's orders, which only 3 or 4 did, on which the Enemy seeing them altogether at the end of the Bridge fired a few shot which our men returned and I with my 3 men returned, in loading & in the Act of firing again I received a shot a little above my right breast which turned me half round when I heared Cap[t] Laurie Commanding and Exhorting his men to be steady & to return the Enemys fire, I called to Cap[t] Laurie that I was wounded [3] and came off the best way I could under a fire from the Enemy, who to the best of my opinion exceeded 800 men, leaving two of those that turned out with me dead on the Spot, one of which I am told they afterwards Scalped [4] On the appear-

[1] This not only confirms Barker's statement as to the confusion among the troops after recrossing the bridge, but reveals Laurie's attempted disposition, i. e., to form the line parallel with the river.

[2] "Keep up their fire." This is an explicit statement and yet seems contradicted in the succeeding sentences. The inference is that Sutherland meant to say keep (or hold) their fire. Sutherland's allegation that the Provincials fired first is flatly contradicted by Barker.

[3] Mackenzie in his diary characterizes Sutherland's wound as slight. He seems to have been active on the march to Boston.

[4] This "scalping" episode is discussed in the Editor's "Nineteenth of April 1775" (Boston, 1924) and in Mr. Allen French's "The Day of Lexington and Concord" (Boston, 1925). Apparently the two men left at the North Bridge, one dead and one supposedly so, were of the "3 or 4" who

ance of the Reinforcement they retired immediatly & as we fortunately killed their leader[1] & about 15 more they made no Attack on Capts Parsons, Brown & Boyd who returned to us in safety, On our being joined by all partys & the Wounded Officers put into two one horse Chairs we marched from Concord, just at the end of the Town next to this a few Concealed Villains fired on us, of which we killed 2, but they wounded 2 of ours, here I saw upon a height to my right hand a vast number of Armed men drawn out in Battalia order, I dare say near 1000 who on our coming nearer dispersed into the Woods & came as close to the road on our flanking partys as they possibly could, upon our ascending the height to the road gave us a very heavy fire, but some shot from the left hand drew my attention that Way when I saw a much larger body drawn up to my left, this I take to be the party with whom those that Attack'd us at the Bridge meant to join & which we fortunately prevented, A little further on I observed another party to the left, tho' the fire now never Slackened, but always found it heavier close by where we saw these partys upon the heights till we arrived near Lexington, when I saw about 2000 men in

followed Sutherland over the wall in execution of Laurie's order to form the line.

[1] Captain Davis of Acton, who, while not the "leader," marched in front with Major Buttrick and Colonel Robinson.

our rear having looked behind on the Soldiers calling out there was a vast number,[1] We got down the Hill with great Alacrity, marching still further on they continued the fire on our rear, but we had no firing in front then which was the Effect of our meeting the 1st. Brigade a little on this side of Lexington under the Command of Lord Percy who made one of the best dispositions ever I saw and soon drove back the Enemy, We now began to Entertain very sanguine hopes of our returning in safety to Boston.[2] His Lordships Courage & Conduct effected this with very little loss, On reducing the Disposition Lord Percy ordered the Grenadiers & Light Infantry to march in front as their Ammunition was mostly expended, that 5 Companys of the 4th should flank us to our right where most danger was to be apprehended, & 3 of the 47th. on our left, the Fuzileers and Marines our Rear, all to be relieved alternately, under a very hot fire from every Bush, House & hedge we arrived at Charlestown, which is 11 Miles from Lexington & 19 from Concord, about 8 at night,

[1] This paragraph is so confused in its chronology and topography as to be quite valueless as evidence. The best account of the experiences and behavior of the troops during the march from Concord to Lexington is to be found in the anonymous letter copied in the diary of Lieutenant Frederick Mackenzie (Cambridge, 1926).

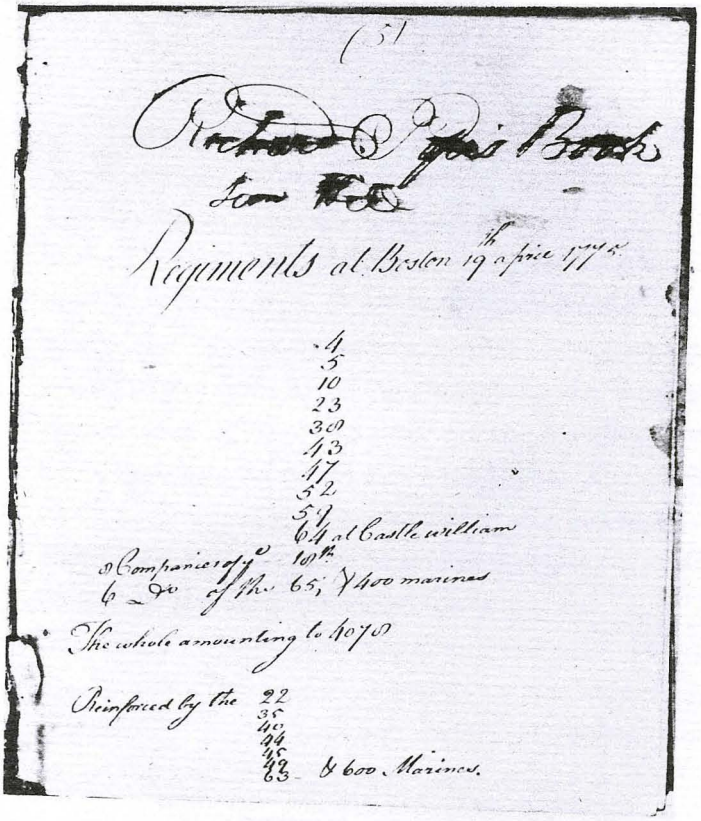
[2] This is the first intimation that Sutherland shared with the other officers serious solicitude for the fate of the detachment.

We were most annoyed at a Village called Anatomy,[1] having no Shot to fire from our Cannon on the Houses which were all full of men & of which we killed a great number &ca. &

WM. SUTHERLAND Lt.
38TH REGT.

[1] Menotomy.

Richard Pope's Book


(51

Regiments at Boston 19th April 1775

4
5
10
23
38
43
47
52
59
64 at Castle William

2 Companies of the 18th
6 Do of the 65, & 400 marines

The whole amounting to 4070

Reinforced by the 22
35
40
44
45
49
63 & 600 Marines.

POPE'S TITLE-PAGE

April 18

GENERAL GAGE having receiv'd intelligence, that the provincials had formed a large Magazine of war–like stores at Concord, 23 miles from Boston, sent in the Evening of the 18th of April, for the Commanding Officers of Corps, to attend him seperately. — It was Judged absolutely necessary, that those preparations for Hostilities Should be destroyed. — A Rendezvous was accordingly appointed for the light infantry and Grenadiers, at 10 O'Clock that Night. The whole made 21 Companies, Consisting of nearly 800 men. The Embarkation was finished a little before 12, and crossed to the right of Cambridge. —

[*April*] *19.* It was two in the morning of the 19 before the detachment began their march for concord, under the command of Lieut. Col. Smyth of the 10th, & major Pitcairn of the marines.

Major Mitchell of the 5 Regiment and four other Officers set out on Horse-back, on the evening of the 18th, in order to be at the entrance of the Town before dark to prevent Intelligence.

They took 3 prisoners, one, the noted Paul Revere,

who assured them that the country was alarmed, and that he saw the embarkation, which was then publick. This information was soon after confirmed by the Firing of alarm Guns: the bells rang, and Drums beat to Arms in concord, and were answered by all the villages Round.

Major Mitchell returned and released his prisoners, and retired to meet the party, which he did at daylight. Col. Smith detached Major pitcairn, to take possession of two Bridges on Concord River: On his march he was inform'd by a Gentleman, that the whole country was in arms, and that at a small distance from him, at the town of Lexington, there was a large body formed, determined to dispute the passage.

This Information being confirmed by several he halted till Colonel Smyth came up;—The whole then loaded [s]till they were positively forbidden to fire, without orders, and proceeding on their march, perceived on Lexington Green a body of about 200, formed and seemingly determined to fight. Major Pitcairn ordered the Light Companies to surround them, and Repeating the orders not to fire.

On Approaching within 100 yards, the rebels filed off to the right and left, taking possession of walls, hedges and houses, and began a scattered fire, which was returned by the troops. On the Rebels breaking, Major

mitchell, and 7 or 8 Officers charged them, with very great danger from our fire. The Horse of Lieutenant Sutherland of the 38th Reg[t] ran away with him into a wood, where a large body of the Rebels lay concealed, who fired shot at him; he, however got back safe. This brought on a heavy fire from the Grenadiers,[1] which did great execution, and dispers'd the whole. From Lexington to Concord, (7 miles) the rebels appeared at a distance, on all sides, gathering towards the Town, but made no attack.

On Colonel Smiths arrival at concord, he detached some of the light companies, to take possession of the Bridges, while the rest of the troops, were employed in destroying the stores, consisting of three 18-Pounders, several new, and well made carriages for heavy Artillery, some barrels of powder, and Cartridges, a quantity of Trenchers, Bowls, Spoons, and about 100 Barrels of Flour.

During these Transactions, the rebels appeared on every hill, in great force, and about 2000 were formed on one, close to a Bridge, where only two[2] light companies were posted. They soon after came down in column, and gave an Irregular fire, which was returned by

[1] This forms a curious confirmation of Sutherland's statement. The firing of the Grenadiers is alleged only in these two lately discovered documents.

[2] This should, of course, be three.

the two Companies, who gave way. Two Companies of Grenadiers appearing, the Rebels retired, several were killed, and wounded on both sides.

Everything being now effected at concord, which was ordered, Col: smith formed his line of march, to return to Boston.

On his first perceiving in the morning, that the country was in Arms, and being assured by several, that the mask would that day be thrown off, and the independance of the Colonies declared, he sent an officer back to General Gage with this Intelligence, who immediately ordered the first brigade, consisting of the 4, 23^{d} & 47th Reg^{t} of [and] y^{e} first battalion of marines, with 2 Field pieces, to march under the Command of Lord percy, to support Colonel Smith.

We [1] Composed a body of about 700, and marched without halting, 15 miles, to the entrance of the Town of Lexington, where we came up with the detachment, who had nearly expended all their Ammunition.

For a considerable time before we joined them, we heard a very hot fire, which this small body had sustained from numbers unknown, from walls, houses, Churches, woods, and in the strongest country Imagination can paint. The ardour of the Troops with a few shot from the field pieces, soon stopped the fire of the

[1] This marks the beginning of what Pope saw himself.

rebels, who fled on all sides; and revenge had so fully possessed the breasts of the Soldiers, that the Battalions broke, regardless of every order, to pursue the affrighted runaways. They were however formed again, tho' with some difficulty, and it would have been scarcely possible, but for a morass, which lay between us, and the Enemy.[1] Our order of march was then formed for boston — the light Infantry and Grenadiers in the Centre, with strong detachments from each Battalion, as Flankers; and each reg[t] taking the van, and rear-guards, in turn.[2] We had not marched 200 yards, till we received a hot fire from all sides, and in this manner fought our way back thro' a strong close country; every wall lined, and every house filled with wretches, who never dared to show their faces.

RETURN OF THE KILLED & WOUNDED

	killed	wounded
officers	1	16
Serg[ts]	2	8
Drum[rs]	1	0
R: & file	86	157
Total	90	181

[1] This is an extremely interesting statement. Pope's mention of the morass makes it quite circumstantial. Mackenzie who does not conceal the wildness of the troops makes no mention of it. If there was disorder, it was probably confined to the 47[th] and did not extend to the rest of the line.

[2] This whole passage concerning the formation of the column seems to

The Loss of the rebels never could be exactly known, some making it 800, killed and wounded, some less, others, more.

be erroneous. It conflicts not only with Sutherland but with every other military witness. It is such errors as this and the inaccuracy of the roster on the title page (see illustration) which suggest that Pope was writing in part at least from memory and not from notes.

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